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 **DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1968**

**WITH THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
AND THE ENGINEER & SURVEYOR ATTACHED.**

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**COUNCIL OFFICES,  
PULHAM MARKET,  
DISS NORFOLK.**

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DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1968

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1968.

The Rural District of Depwade covers 79,742 acres and had an estimated mid-year resident population of 18,340, an increase of 250 persons over the previous year.

I am happy to be able to report that no great medical catastrophes or epidemics occurred during the year under review. Infectious disease in children appears to be well under control and with the advent of an effective measles vaccine we can hope that the incidence of this will also rapidly fall. Throat infections caused by haemolytic streptococci resulted in some loss of schooling but the previous complications we used to see such as rheumatic fever and nephritis seem to have been almost completely eliminated by the effective treatment with modern antibiotics. Bowel infections with salmonella organisms still cause outbreaks of diarrhoea from time to time and emphasise the constant need for care in food preparation, cooking and handling. The need for scrupulous cleanliness in food handlers is still all too frequently neglected.

The average age at death gets ever higher in this part of Norfolk which we are lucky enough to live. Perhaps the stresses and strains are not so great here as in other parts; but there is still no cause for complacency. Concerning infectious diseases, we may justifiably boast that we are largely operating a National Health Service; but for many other avoidable complaints we are still all too happy to squander the great bulk of our financial resources devoted to medicine as a whole on a National Sickness Service, the hospitals devouring the vast majority available. The fault lies not with the personnel dealing with disease but to the lack of financial resources available to prove the root causes of those diseases which we believe are largely avoidable, if not completely, at least until a later age.

Those of us in Public Health Service repeatedly plug this theme and there is more than enough evidence to show that we are right. Yet scorning youth sheeplike follows the bad examples of middle age and the not-so-young gradually drift into over-eating and inactivity. The middle age and elderly avoid what could be an uncomfortable discipline by burying their heads in the sand or by the pretence of a bold fatalism. Only a few grasp the nettle firmly in the hope of an active old age if not a prolonged one and the avoidance of being an unnecessary burden on others. Perhaps many more would take a more sensible course through life if they knew more about the maintenance of good health. Health education at a local level is indispensable for this purpose and there is still much to be done by small but enthusiastic groups disseminating information about preventive measures to all who are willing to listen and learn.

Environmental health services have been well and enthusiastically maintained by an ever efficient health staff. Conditions are often made hard by the breakdown of machinery, the difficulty of recruiting suitable staff, impossible weather conditions and the like but the root cause is always a paucity of funds. This, in turn, has also led to a slowing down of new projects, as all capital expenditure requires government approval - so much is the support of the National currency involved in council housing, extension of sewerage systems, better water supplies etc.

May I end this report as I did the one for 1967 by drawing your attention to the illegitimate birth rate. I do this because I feel that as the drip of water gradually impresses the stone so my little bit of propaganda for a subject which is still very much a taboo may gradually awaken our consciences to what I believe is largely a public responsibility. I believe the tragedy of illegitimate birth is one which should be completely avoided in this day and age and whatever the intimate causes of its occurrence its prevention by medical means is still being delayed by ignorance and lack of public demand for suitable preventive services. Sex education is still largely avoided in schools, one headmaster even going so far as to believe he would precipitate sex orgies if he allowed the subject in his co-educational school! If the animal is so near the surface in the children of our advanced, civilised society, then all the more reason for utilising every facility possible to prevent undesirable consequences and the mental anguish which is suffered by all concerned.

I am grateful to the Health Committee and their Chairman for their never failing support and also to members of the Health staff for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

R. D. Harland

Local Health Office,  
Aspland Road,  
Norwich,  
NOR 19S.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT - 1968

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	79,742
Estimated Resident Population	18,340
Rateable Value	£ 444,186
Sum Produced by a Penny Rate	£ 1,746

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	127	154	281
Illegitimate	8	10	18
Totals	135	164	299

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population = 16.3

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	2	2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of Total Births = 7.0

Table 4. TOTAL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Live	135	164	299
Still	-	2	2

Table 5. INFANT DEATHS

(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	1	3

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total - 10.0 (per 1,000 live births)  
 Legitimate - 10.7 (per 1,000 legitimate births)  
 Illegitimate - 0.0 (per 1,000 illegitimate births)

- (b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during the first four weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)- 3.3

- (c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)- 3.3

- (d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 10.0

Table 6. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Males - 8      Females - 10      Total - 18 (6% of total live births).

Table 7. MATERNAL DEATHS (Including abortion) - Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 0.0

Table 8. DEATHS (All ages)

Males	Females	Total
123	172	295

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population)- 16.1

Table 9, CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Leukaemia	-	1	1
Gastro enteritis	1	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	-	1
Totals	2	1	3

Table 10. NOTIFICATION OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR  
(According to Age Groups)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	2	1	3
1 and under 5	1	1	2
5 and under 15	-	-	-
15 " " 25	-	-	-
25 " " 35	2	1	3
35 " " 45	2	3	5
45 " " 55	5	3	8
55 " " 65	11	14	25
65 " " 75	39	26	65
75 and over	61	123	184
Totals	123	172	295

Table 11. CAUSE OF DEATHS (Registrar General)

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	10	1	11
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	5	5
Leukaemia	1	2	3
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	10	15	25
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Anaemias	1	2	3
Other diseases of blood etc.	-	1	1
Mental Disorders	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	2	2	4
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	3	3
Hypertensive disease	-	3	3
Ischaemic heart disease	32	36	68
Other forms of heart disease	12	17	29
Cerebrovascular disease	18	34	52
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	4	8
Influenza	1	4	5
Pneumonia	7	21	28
Bronchitis and emphysema	9	4	13
Asthma	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4
Peptic ulcer	-	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	3	1	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies	-	1	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	-	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	2	2	4
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	2	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	1	2
All other external causes	1	-	1
Totals	123	172	295

Table 12. SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR 1967 AND 1968

	1967	1968
Live Births (per 1,000 pop.)	(272)	(299)
Depwade R.D.	15.0	16.3
Area 5	16.3	16.1
England & Wales (provisional)	17.2	16.9
Still Births (per 1,000 total births)	(3)	(2)
Depwade R.D.	11.0	7.0
Area 5	9.4	9.6
England & Wales (provisional)	14.8	14.0
Crude Deaths (per 1,000 pop.)	(262)	(295)
Depwade R.D.	14.5	16.1
Area 5	12.5	13.3
England & Wales (provisional)	11.2	11.9
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	(3)	(3)
Depwade R.D.	11.0	10.0
Area 5	14.6	13.0
England & Wales (provisional)	18.3	18.0

- NOTE: 1. Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Depwade R.D.  
2. Area 5 comprises Depwade, Forehoe & Henstead and Loddon R.D.'s and Diss and Wymondham U.D.'s.

Table 13. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Depwade R.D.

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Number of deaths	35	30	36	32	55	46	47
Percentage of total deaths	16.6	12.8	15.2	11.9	22.0	17.6	15.9

Table 14. CANCER DEATHS DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Depwade R.D.

Year	Male			Female		
	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung
1968	123	22	10	172	25	1
1967	122	19	5	140	27	4
1966	143	34	9	107	19	3
1965	129	14	7	141	18	1
1964	115	18	9	122	18	1
Totals	632	107	40	682	107	10

Table 15. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
(According to Age Groups - Depwade R.D.)

	Under 1	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	5	10	-	-	15
Measles	7	137	213	2	1	365
Whooping cough	-	2	2	-	-	4
Pneumonia (To 30th Sept.)	-	-	1	-	5	6
Food Poisoning	-	--	1	-	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2	2
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2	2
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	7	144	232	2	12	397

Table 16. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING LAST FIVE YEARS  
- Depwade R.D.

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Scarlet Fever	6	7	8	11	15
Measles	236	46	156	102	365
Whooping Cough	18	23	14	6	4
Pneumonia	5	6	6	7	6
Infective Jaundice	2	2	3	-	-
Dysentery (Sonne)	-	-	4	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	5	1	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	2	2	1	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	2	1	-	2
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	269	93	195	128	397

Table 17. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX  
Vaccination of children (under five years of age)  
during the year resident in the District and Area 5,  
are shown in the following table.

	Depwade R.D.	Area 5
Number of live births registered	299	1,234
Number of vaccinations recorded (0-4 years)	146	615
Percentage Vaccinated	49	50

Table 18. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following is the number of primary immunisations and booster injections given during the year in respect of Area 5.

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS		
Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-15	Total
409	540	52	1,001	509	722	1,231

Table 19. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The following is the number of primary immunisations and boosters given in Area 5 during the year.

PRIMARY		BOOSTERS	
0 - 3 years	4 - 14 years	0 - 3 years	4 - 14 years
962	63	179	603

Table 20. IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

The following is the number of whooping cough immunisations recorded in Area 5 during the year.

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS
Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total	Under 5
402	531	15	948	594

Table 21. IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

The following is the number of tetanus immunisations recorded in Area 5 during the year.

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS	
Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-14
411	547	184	1,142	516	752

Table 22. B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

This is given at the age of 13 years to all school children who do not react to the tuberculin skin test. Number of skin tests and subsequent B.C.G. vaccinations in Area 5 last year is recorded.

Number Skin Tested	Number Positive	Number B.C.G. Vaccinated
806	41	725



# DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1968.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1968. It follows the general pattern of reports for previous years and meets the requirements of Circular No. 1/69 from the Department of Health and Social Security.

### INTRODUCTION.

#### (a) General.

Looking back, I think it fair to say that 1968 was, with one singular exception, another normal year of steady progress towards our aim of improving the living, working and leisure conditions of the population served. The one notable exception - over which there is no control, but which has some considerable effect on public health - was, of course, the weather. Only one word can describe the 1968 weather - depressing, particularly during the second half of the year, when many records were broken ... all on the debit side of the account. Nobody in East Anglia will forget the deluge of September 15th., when over 2½ inches of rain fell in 24 hours and caused serious flooding of over a 100 dwellings in this District alone, but few people realise that in the month of December less than one hour of sunshine was recorded, some 44 hours below the local average for that month. Apart from the general effect of such dismal weather on everybody's health - both mental and physical, these conditions bring particular problems to the Public Health Department; not only did the flooding entail special duties to assist the occupants of the homes affected, but the cesspool emptying service was stretched to extremes to cope with septic tank drainage systems affected by waterlogged subsoil. Wet, mild conditions during the spring and early summer also meant good breeding conditions for rats, causing extra work for the rat catcher later on.

#### (b) Staff.

However, I trust that members will agree that the report indicates a good year's work by the staff of the Department, to whom I would again extend my thanks and appreciation for their continued efforts and support. In contrast with the staffing difficulties experienced in 1967, there was only one change last year; in July, Mrs. B. J. Hunt, the short-hand typist/clerk left to take a better paid post nearer her home at Weybread, and could not be replaced until November, when Miss D. L. Coleman was appointed. I am pleased to report that Miss Coleman proved very capable and efficient and quickly settled in to the routine of the Department.

#### (c) New Legislation.

Only one new important Act was passed in 1968, which affects the work of the Department; this was the Town and Country Planning Act 1968, upon which I have reported in detail to the Buildings and Plans Committee; the majority of the new provisions did not come into force until early 1969.

About an average number of Circulars and Statutory Instruments affecting the work were issued by the various government departments on the following subjects:-

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food - Milk & Dairies, Imported Food and Slaughterhouses (Prevention of Cruelty).

Department of Employment & Productivity - Offices, Shops & Railway Premises.

Department of Health & Social Security - Dogs in Food Shops, Notifiable Diseases and Food Poisoning.

Ministry of Housing & Local Government - Clean Air, Building Regulations, Town and Country Planning, Noise from Concrete Breakers, Metrication in House Building, and Rag Flock.

Home Office - Variation of Miscellaneous Licence Fees.

(d) General Working of the Department.

The following table gives statistics of the types of visits made by the three Public Health Inspectors during the year. Whilst these figures are helpful to indicate that the various aspects of the work are receiving suitable attention, they by no means relate to the time taken up by the different jobs; for example, the number of visits to slaughterhouses is slightly down on the figures for the previous two years, but in fact more time than ever is now being taken up on this work, as the killing figures for the year are about 25% up on 1967. The figures in brackets are those corresponding for the previous year.

			<u>Number of Visits or inspections</u>	<u>Percentage of total</u>
* Slaughterhouses for meat inspection and other purposes ... ..	654	(714)	6.9	(8.6)
Housing (including Grants) ... ..	1628	(1494)	19.8	(18.1)
Public Health matters -- nuisances, water supplies, infectious diseases etc. ... ..	1091	(947)	13.2	(11.5)
Public Cleansing (including public conveniences) ... ..	515	(388)	6.2	(4.7)
Food premises ... ..	372	(320)	4.5	(3.9)
Other matters (places of employment, rodent control, petroleum storage and miscellaneous visits). ... ..	1022	(612)	12.4	(7.4)
** Building Regulation and Planning control. ... ..	3045	(3785)	37.0	(45.8)
	8327	(8260)		

Notes:- \* This figure includes 89 visits to slaughterhouses for meat inspection by the private veterinary officers.

\*\* In addition to this figure, the Building Inspector also carried out 4,192 inspections during the year.

The total number of visits is slightly up on the figure for 1967 - when a reduced number was due to staff shortage for part of the year. Apart from visits to slaughterhouses all the individual figures for public health work show marked increases, but, it will be observed that some proportion of the building control work is still necessarily carried out by the Public Health Inspectors. This is inevitable, with only one Building Inspector to cover the whole district and in any case saves much time and travelling for him when a Public Health Inspector is visiting in the same vicinity for another purpose. The total number of building control visits (7,237) is 30% up on the previous year, and gives some indication of the increased amount of building work being done and the extra supervision required by the Building Regulations 1965.

PART I - H O U S I N G.

(a) General.

On April 1st. 1968, the total number of separate dwellings (including caravans on the Valuation List was 6,920 - an increase of 263 from the same date the previous year. The Registrar General's mid-year estimated population was 18,340 (250 more than the 1967 figure) and based on these figures, the average occupation index (persons per dwelling) for 1968 was 2.65 (compared with 2.717 for 1967).

(b) New Housing.

During the year 228 new dwellings were erected - 202 by private enterprise and 26 by the Council. The total is 3 less than in 1967, but the number of private new dwellings is the highest yet recorded in one year.

The following table shows how the 202 private dwellings sub-divide into types and the number of bedrooms provided in the various types:-

Type of dwellings	Number of bedrooms			Total
	Two	Three	Four	
Traditional two storey houses	1	11	13	25
Chalet type	1	22	3	26
Traditional bungalows	55	89	2	146
Bricked/tiled prefab. bungalows	4	1	-	5
Total:	61	123	18	202

(c) Slum Clearance - Action under Housing Act 1957 on Unfit Dwellings.

40 dwellings were represented to the Public Health Committee as unfit and beyond economic reconditioning; following their inspection by the appointed Sub-Committee, action taken thereon (together with 19 brought forward from 1967) was as follows:-

(i)	Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	24
(ii)	Undertakings accepted not to relet vacant dwellings, or to repair within agreed time	...	...	...	...	...	9
(iii)	Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	4
(iv)	Demolished without formal action having to be taken	...	...	...	...	...	1
(v)	Deferred for consideration at a later stage of slum clearance programme	...	...	...	...	...	19
(vi)	Carried forward for action in 1969	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total							59

During the year eight statutory undertakings on unfit dwellings were cancelled, and three demolition orders revoked. In ten of these cases the dwellings had been satisfactorily reconditioned and in the other case, the dwelling was converted for use in connection with the shop attached. Fourteen unfit dwellings were demolished (including two not subject to statutory orders).

The number of unfit dwellings subject to statutory orders still standing in the District remains close on 300, but less than one-third of these were occupied at the end of the year. Now that more emphasis is being placed on rehousing the occupants of dwellings subject to statutory orders, it is anticipated that this figure will show a marked reduction by the end of 1969. The position at the end of 1968, was as follows:-

	<u>Demolition Orders</u>	<u>Closing Orders</u>	<u>Undertakings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number occupied .....	73 (69)	9 (11)	10 (9)	92 (89)
Number vacant .....	89 (91)	27 (18)	83 (85)	199 (194)
Totals .....	<u>162 (160)</u>	<u>36 (29)</u>	<u>93 (94)</u>	<u>291 (283)</u>

The figures in brackets are those corresponding for 1967.

In 16 cases, following complaints from tenants, informal action in the form of letters was taken for the execution of essential repairs to dwellings; none of these called for further action before the end of the year. Two statutory notices were served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936 in respect of defects at dwellings (informal action having been started in 1967) and the matter was still outstanding at the end of the year. All dwellings improved with grants (see next section) are brought up to the required standard of repair as a condition of making the grants. One Certificate of Disrepair was issued under the Rent Act.

#### (d) Improvement Grants.

The number of grants approved in 1968 was 122, an increase of 26 over the figure for the previous year. I am pleased to admit that this figure proves me wrong in the views expressed last year and the year before that the peak of this aspect of housing had passed. The continued demand for grants for modernising old cottages is undoubtedly due to the desire of town dwellers to move to the quieter life of a cottage in the country, particularly on retirement. So many of our double dwellers are put on the market when vacated, purchased for owner/occupation and modernised with grant aid as one good dwelling. This in itself, is very commendable but there are two other points that must not be overlooked - firstly, every time it happens our housing stock is reduced by one, and secondly, two previously rented dwellings are not then available for letting.

Once again, the majority of dwellings improved with grant aid are owner/occupied but this cannot be surprising as the proportion of our housing stocks in this category must be rising almost daily. However, it is gratifying to note from the following table that dwellings in other categories continue to receive reasonable attention - this particularly applies to the dwellings on the large estate situated in the southern part of the District.

<u>Type of dwelling improved.</u>	<u>Discretionary Grants.</u>		<u>Standard Grants.</u>	
Private dwellings - owner-occupied ....	20	61%	51	58%
Private dwellings - rented .....	4	12%	12	13%
Farm-houses .....	3	9%	10	11%
Tied agricultural dwellings .....	6	18%	16	18%
Totals approved 1968 .....	33		89	

- (i) Discretionary Grants. 46 new applications were received and with 5 brought forward from 1967, 33 were approved, 4 refused, 4 withdrawn, and 10 carried forward to be dealt with in 1969. One of those approved was subsequently abandoned, 3 of those refused had Standard Grants as did one of those withdrawn.

The 33 approved grants were for a total of £11,455 (an average of £347 - £19 higher than the average in 1967). Grants of this type approved up to the end of 1968 totalled 687 to a total value of £182,445.

- (ii) Standard Grants. 97 new applications were received; 89 were approved, six withdrawn and two carried forward for consideration in 1969. Of those withdrawn, two subsequently had Discretionary Grants approved, and two received earth closet conversion grants. The 89 approved grants covered the provision of the following amenities:-

<u>Baths.</u>	<u>Wash-basins.</u>	<u>W.Cs.</u>	<u>Hot-water supplies.</u>	<u>Food Stores.</u>
80	82	85	84	49

58 Standard Grants were certified for payment to a total value of £10,199.13.4d. averaging £175.17.2d. per grant. This is about £8 higher than the average for 1967, and undoubtedly due to increased building costs. The total number of these grants paid up to the end of 1968 was 521 to a total value of £70,320.

(e) Overcrowding.

No new cases of overcrowding were encountered during the year; all five of the previously recorded cases of statutory overcrowding were abated, although two of these were still overcrowded on the 'bedroom' standard. Two of the cases previously recorded as overcrowded on the 'bedroom' standard were also abated, leaving the position at the end of the year as follows:-

	No. on register at 31.12.67.	Added 1968.	Abated 1968.	No. on register at 31.12.68.
(i) Dwellings overcrowded on statutory standard ... ..	5	-	5	-
(ii) Dwellings overcrowded on 'bedroom' standard ... ..	5	2	2	5

Members will undoubtedly agree that this presents a much improved situation than was shown at the end of 1967, as it is the first time for several years that I have been able to report that there are no known cases of statutory overcrowding in the District.

(NOTE: For the information of new members, statutory overcrowding is ascertained by comparing the number of occupants, with the number and sizes of the rooms, taking both living and sleeping rooms into consideration. The 'bedroom' standard is purely an informal assessment of conditions in a household applying the same standard to the number and size of sleeping rooms only.

(f) Cleanliness of Dwellings.

Once again, I am pleased to be able to report that in general, the occupiers of dwellings throughout the District maintain them to a high standard of cleanliness. In the year, only eleven special visits were made to nine dwellings to deal with dirty or verminous conditions, of which five called for action of some kind; all these were occupied by elderly people. In two cases the dwellings had to be disinfested of fleas and in two instances, the occupants subsequently entered County Council Homes for the Elderly.

One case arose, where an elderly widow, living in a condemned cottage became unable to maintain the dwelling or herself in a satisfactory condition, and she refused to be removed to a County Home to be cared for. A magistrates order was applied for and granted under Sec.47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 (as amended) and she was taken into care.

(g) Movable Dwellings - Caravans.

The number of caravans in use for living accommodation at the end of 1968 was 63 - an increase of three from the number at the end of 1967. 19 of those in use at the beginning of the year were removed or ceased to be used, but 22 additional ones brought into use. Three were unauthorised, but two have since been removed.

All the sites were visited regularly and no case arose where serious infringements of the licence or planning conditions were found.

In one case where land was being used to stand two caravans, let for habitation, without planning consent or a site licence, legal proceedings were taken against the land owner under Sec.1 of the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960, and a fine of £25 imposed, with £15.15s. costs. The caravans were removed shortly after the hearing.

In accordance with a request recently made by the Public Health Committee, a form of 'census' has been taken of the occupants on the 63 caravans in use at the end of 1968, a summary of which is as follows:-

Number occupied by males living alone .....	23
Number occupied by females living alone.....	5
Number occupied by middle aged or elderly couples.....	11
Number occupied by young couples without children.....	12
+ Number occupied by man/wife and young children.....	9
Number occupied on casual basis only .....	3
+ This is the group which calls for some concern, as the caravan is by no means a suitable home for a family with young children. I, therefore, give more detailed information regarding the nine cases involved :-	

Three of the families have since been rehoused in permanent dwellings (two by the Council and one private).

Two of the caravans have since been moved out of the District.

Two of the caravans are only in temporary use pending the erection of a new bungalow in one case and the reconditioning of a double dweller on the site in the other.

One caravan was occupied by a young couple with baby 18 months old at the end of 1968, but twins have since been born; they are applicants for a Council house and are likely to receive priority consideration very shortly.

One 'mobile home' type of caravan - with three separate bedrooms, occupied by three adults and three children (girls aged 8 and 6, boy aged 3).

I think these facts clearly show that the problem of young children living in caravans in this District is not a very serious one.

The two holiday caravan sites at Wortwell continued in use throughout 1968 and regular inspections thereof indicated that they were conducted and maintained up to the same good standard as previously. Their degree of use during the summer months also indicated that these two sites meet a genuine need in the Waveney Valley area.

#### (h) Common Lodging Houses.

Once again, I must formally report that there are none of these premises in use in the District.

### PART II - WATER SUPPLIES.

#### (a) Mains Supplies.

76 samples of mains water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. 51 of these were routine check samples from existing mains and all reported as satisfactory. The remaining 25 were taken from new mains extensions (mostly on private housing estates) and all but two gave good results. In the two cases of unacceptable non-faecal bacteriological counts, the mains were re-chlorinated and flushed before resampling, when satisfactory results were obtained.

Following the flooding in September, when one of the bores at Rushall Headworks was slightly affected by surface water, it was considered advisable to take regular check samples of the raw water from the bores there. In all 26 samples were taken before the end of the year, and all reported satisfactory.

Note: The Annual Report of the Engineer and Surveyor contains full information on the working of the Council's water undertaking during 1968.

(b) Private Supplies.

20 bacteriological samples were taken from 16 shallow wells at private premises, and only four good results were obtained; one of these was from a well that also gave four unsatisfactory results. Of the twelve wells considered unsafe for drinking, three of the properties concerned were subsequently connected to the main, two of the dwellings remain unoccupied, awaiting a satisfactory water supply, in six cases, connection to the main is possible but difficult and the cases remained outstanding at the end of the year, and in the last case, the two cottages served by the well have since been dealt with as unfit under the Housing Act. One sample taken from a spring supply gave a satisfactory result.

(Note: In all cases of unsatisfactory results from private supplies, the users are warned to boil the water before it is used for human consumption, until an alternative satisfactory supply is available).

PART III - SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES AND PREMISES.

(a) Meat Inspection.

The same five slaughterhouses were licensed for use in 1968, and with one exception continued to be operated on similar lines as in previous years. The slaughterhouse at Hempnall - used solely in connection with the retail shop adjoining - ceased to be used after the death of the licensee early in the year. The throughput at the two wholesale premises continued to rise - particularly at Earsham, but I am able to report that slaughtering times have been generally kept to those informally agreed with the operators and only in exceptional circumstances has overtime been necessary. Arrangements with the two private firms of veterinary officers to carry out meat inspection at week-ends and at odd times of staff shortage, continued on a satisfactory basis, and I would again record my thanks and appreciation to their staff for the utmost co-operation - sometimes at very short notice.

All slaughterhouses are inspected from time to time by a veterinary officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, and during 1968 only minor infringements of the Regulations were observed, all of which were rectified following informal requests to do so.

The total number of animals slaughtered is a new high record and shows an increase of 6,834 over the previous year - due entirely to the increased number of pigs. The incidence of disease - both T.B. and other diseases - shows hardly any variation from the previous year and calls for no particular comment. Only three cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were encountered - all in steers' heads, but in only one of these cases was it considered necessary to have the carcass treated by the recommended method of refrigeration.

The table overleaf shows the number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year, together with figures showing the incidence of disease or abnormalities found:-

	Cattle ex. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	2220	247	1181	2298	29134	35080
Number inspected (percentage)	2220 100%	247 100%	1181 100%	2298 100%	29134 100%	35080 100%
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses	1	6	11	1	101	120
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned.	316	53	9	43	2078	2499
Percentage of number inspected affected	14.3	23.9	1.8	1.9	7.4	7.5
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	332	332
Percentage of number inspected affected	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.9
<u>Cysticerci</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	-	-	-	-	3
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	1
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: No horses were slaughtered.

The number of whole carcasses condemned is exactly 50% up on the figure for 1967 - a rather higher increase than the slaughtering increase justified. It can only be attributed to a higher number of casualties dealt with, and in no way should the number of carcasses or meat condemned be taken as a reflection on the quality of meat produced, which I confirm is of a very good standard. Details of the 120 whole carcasses condemned with the reasons for condemnation were as follows:-

1 steer	...	leukaemia.	12 pigs	...	septicaemia.
2 cows	...	moribund.	11 pigs	...	septic pneumonia.
1 cow	...	septic pericarditis.	9 pigs	...	poorness/emaciation.
1 cow	...	Johne's disease.	6 pigs	...	fevered.
1 cow	...	poorness/emaciation.	3 pigs	...	immature.
1 cow	...	oedema.	1 pig	...	acute erysipelas.
4 calves	...	umbilical pyaemia.	1 pig	...	septic arthritis.
2 calves	...	immature.	1 pig	...	jaundice.
2 calves	...	fevered.	3 pigs	...	septic peritonitis.
2 calves	...	moribund.	1 pig	...	septic nephritis.
1 calf	...	septic pleurisy.	1 pig	...	general/extensive
1 lamb	...	toxaemia.	1 pig	...	oedema. bruising
20 pigs	...	moribund.	1 pig	...	leukaemia.
29 pigs	...	pyaemia.	1 pig	...	gangrenous wounds.

The total estimated weight of meat and offals condemned as unfit for human consumption was 15 tons 12 cwt - 4 tons more than in 1967. All this is stained in the recommended manner and removed by private firms for processing.

The Council's income from meat inspection charges was £1,502.7.9d. - £278. more than in 1967.

#### Slaughter of Animals Act - Slaughterman's Licences.

26 licences were issued to persons employed at the slaughterhouses to act as slaughtermen - one fewer than in 1967. Two of the previous licensees did not re-apply and one new licence was issued to a person not previously engaged on this work; this licence was made 'provisional' - permitting him only to operate in the first instance whilst under the supervision of a fully licensed person. All persons licensed are kept under regular observation and no infringements of the Act or relevant Regulations were encountered.

#### (b) Inspection of Other Foods.

Only one serious complaint of 'unfit food' was received from a member of the public during the year; this concerned a bottle of beer which burnt the consumer's mouth when he tasted the contents. As the beer was produced and bottled by a nationally known firm of brewers and supplied from premises outside the District, it was considered advisable to refer the matter to the Food and Drugs Officer of the County Council; it transpired that the beer contained a proportion of caustic soda, a cleansing agent used on bottle washing machines. The firm concerned was subsequently prosecuted by the County Council and fined £40.0.0. and costs.

Routine inspections of food shops, factories and other premises used for the preparation of food for sale, did not bring to light any cases of food unfit for human consumption, and I am able to repeat what I have previously reported that our inspections of these premises indicate that foodstuffs offered for sale or in course of preparation for sale are generally of a very good standard. Further, the methods of storage, display and handling food in these premises is improving year by year - mainly due, I consider, to our regular visits and advice - an aspect of health education which must go on and on and on!

Whilst on the subject of food storage, I feel obliged to mention two cases where we were called in by shopkeepers to certify the unfitness of foods stored in refrigerator cabinets, which had broken down due to electricity failure. In one case the total number of individual items of food and confectionery came to 767 to an estimated total value of over £100, and occurrences such as this raise two questions in my mind ... firstly, in this technological age why is it not possible to avoid lengthy electricity failures that bring about such waste of good food and money, and secondly, why are not shopkeepers instructed by the makers of these cabinets or food suppliers how to cope with such a situation by covering the food with any suitable insulation material (even several thicknesses of newspaper would help) which prevents a quick rise in temperature and could save some if not all the food concerned? Naturally, we give such advice as this when the occasion arises, but it is often too late.

Two shops had small quantities of food damaged during the September flooding - involving six dozen tins of soup (rusty cans), three dozen bottles of fruit juice, twelve dozen packets of crisps, and 3½ dozen packets of corn flakes. Only on one other occasion was a request made by the Superintendent of a County Home for a 6lb. tin of ox tongue to be examined, which had become decomposed due to a punctured can.

That we are not so frequently called in by shopkeepers to inspect alleged unfit foodstuffs now, is, I consider due to two factors; first, the general standards of the food and containers is higher than previously, so much less food spoils, and second, as the amount involved is relatively small, wholesalers do not now insist on certificates of unfitness from the local Public Health Inspector.

### (c) Food Premises.

The following table gives the number of the various types of food handling premises (other than slaughterhouses and dairies), in use at the end of 1968 (with comparable figures for the previous year in brackets):-

General food shops (inc. 2 stalls).....	90	(82)
Butcher's shops.....	15	(17)
Fish shops (inc.fried fish & chip shops).....	4	( 4)
Fish stalls.....	3	( 3)
Restaurants, cafes, etc.....	11	(11)
Bakeries.....	4	( 4)
Public Houses.....	57	(58)
Poultry processing premises.....	6	( 5)
Others (mineral water factory, factory canteen & wholesale meat store).....	3	( 3)

It will be observed that the figures show only slight variation from those of the previous year. The eight increase in the number of general food shops is not that this number of new shops have been opened, but that shops previously selling other goods have on inspection been found to be selling food, mostly confectionery which is wrapped and not a serious source of potential risk; for all that, such matters do call for constant vigilance, which could be avoided if all food premises had to be registered with the local authority before being so used.

The number of inspections of food premises (372) shows a further increase over the number for 1967, but still only represents roughly two inspections per year for each one. However, in practice these inspections are mainly made where they are most needed, i.e. premises where the 'dangerous' types of food are actually handled - restaurant kitchens, poultry processing plants, butchers' cooked meat preparing rooms, and so on. In addition to inspections of permanent premises, every opportunity is taken to inspect the various types of mobile shops, food delivery vans etc., which I am pleased to report show a gradual improvement in standard all the time.

As a result of the inspections, on only twelve occasions was it found necessary to write informal letters requesting attention to minor infringements of the Regulations, and all were complied with, without the necessity of further action being considered.

The six poultry processing premises received a total of 42 visits during the year and were found to be operated and maintained in a satisfactory manner. The largest plant is at Harleston where 50,000 ten-week old broilers were being handled per week at the end of the year, with a rejection rate of about 1%. Three smaller plants handle between 500 and 2,500 poultry of various kinds per week, with a somewhat lower rejection rate. Another plant which previously processed poultry in varying numbers throughout the year, last year only dealt with Christmas trade, when about 10,000 birds, including a number of geese and turkeys were handled; as these are specially selected birds, the rejection rate is very low. The sixth plant handles only game and trade there is therefore on a seasonal basis; pheasants reach up to 10,000 per week, and pigeons up to 30,000; partridges, wild duck, swans, woodcock, rabbits and hares are also handled. It is obvious from these figures, that any form of routine inspection of the poultry by our present staff is not practicable, and until such time as Regulations are made to make it compulsory and arrangements made for the necessary staff to be available, the present system of inspection and rejection by the trade must be accepted.

### (d) Retail Distribution of Milk.

No additional milk retailers were registered, and the same 18 (plus 3 producer retailers) were operating at the end of the year. The five dairy premises (or milk stores) continue to be used. All milk retailers (including those operating from premises outside the district) were kept under routine observation, and the premises inspected, but no infringements of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations were encountered.

(e) Ice-Cream.

One additional shop was registered for the sale of ice-cream, bringing the total to 69 at the end of the year; the one premises registered also for the manufacture of ice-cream continued in use. Regular visits to all these premises ensured that they were conducted and maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Twelve samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination - ten of these were reported as Grade I (excellent) and two Grade II (good). Two of the samples were from the manufacturer - results, one Grade I and one Grade II.

PART IV - PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

The collection of household refuse from all but a very few isolated dwellings continued on a fortnightly basis, except in Harleston where the collection is weekly (for which that Parish pays a special rate). The question of improving the service to a weekly collection throughout the District was reported on and considered by the Public Health Committee in December, but consideration deferred for six months. The decision made in November 1967 to collect free, on request, discarded domestic articles, too bulky for inclusion in the regular collection round, has not proved too much to cope with, as although fairly regular calls are made for this service it has normally been possible to make arrangements for several such collections to be made on a Saturday morning every few weeks. This is a service which is obviously appreciated and which avoids the need for indiscriminate dumping of such articles.

As for several years now, the main headache of this service has continued to be - where and how to dispose of the refuse after collection. However, the practice of disposal by controlled tipping was continued throughout the year at three main points - in July, protracted negotiations for the use of a shallow depression on the disused Airfield at Hardwick were completed and tipping commenced there straightaway. In October, agreement was reached with the owner of some seven acres of land at Harman's Lane, Needham, to fill in a number of old sand and gravel excavations and as the Weybread tip was by then completely filled, tipping started there. I am afraid that neither of these sites can be regarded as long-term as the increasing amount of refuse being created will reduce their potential life from what was originally estimated. The other tip at Randall's Farm, Forncett, continued in use, but here again, the future tipping space is becoming very limited. As previously, the tips are covered and levelled with the David Brown tractor, which I consider does a very good job in spite of its limited power. The tips were again given regular rat treatment and sprayed for insects during the summer, by the rat-catcher.

The Working Party, comprising officers of the City of Norwich, ten Rural District and four Urban Districts, in East and South Norfolk, to study the existing problems of refuse disposal and to investigate the possible solutions in the way of a joint scheme, continued its deliberations and investigations throughout the year and was expected to produce its findings and report early in 1969. Preliminary discussions also took place between officers of this Council and those of Hartismere Rural District Council with a view to our participation in a joint disposal scheme, if their proposal to install a pulverising plant at Brome old airfield could be realised on a sound financial basis.

The same three vehicles continued in use for refuse collection throughout most of the year, but unfortunately the Karrier 7 cu.yd. sideloader (only two years old) was involved in a serious accident early in December, and damaged beyond economical repair. A new vehicle was ordered almost immediately, but it meant bringing back into use the old Fordson sideloader, which although discarded, had been retained as a spare. The driver and mate of the vehicle involved in the accident (C. Reynolds and O. Brighton) were both seriously injured and still off work at the end of the year. There were no changes in

personnel engaged on Public Cleansing work during 1968, and I would again record my appreciation of their good work, particularly those whose duties were affected by the September flooding and the necessary clearing up work afterwards. The 13 men lost a total of 117½ working days through sickness and injury - about 3.7% of the total possible. This is slightly higher than the 1967 percentage, but the increase is entirely due to the time lost by the men injured in the accident.

(b) Emptying of Earth-Closet Pails.

This service continued as previously with weekly collections in the following parishes, Harleston\*, Alburgh\*, Brockdish, Wortwell, Starston and the Pulhams\*. In those parishes marked with an asterisk the service is mainly confined to those dwellings outside the sewered areas, and dwellings with a limited life within the sewered area. In all these parishes the number of dwellings requiring this service is gradually decreasing which means slightly less time is taken up by the work - allowing a corresponding increase in the time available for cesspool emptying. The two men on the cesspool emptier still do this work early mornings on two days per week.

Pail contents were again disposed of by composting on straw 'pans' on an isolated site at Thorpe Abbotts, and thanks are again due to the farmer who supplies the straw and removes the resultant 'manure' for a modest charge.

(c) Emptying of Septic Tanks etc.

The following table is a summary of the work carried out by the Dennis 800 gallon cesspool emptier (in addition to that mentioned in the previous section):-

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No. of loads collected</u>
Council sewage works & septic tanks.....	149
Private septic tanks.....	795
Septic tanks at schools, school canteens etc.....	31
	<hr/> 975 <hr/>

The total number of loads collected is about 100 down on the previous year - roughly two per week; this is accounted for by the fact that now we are doing less work for the Engineer at Council sewage works, more time is available for private dwellings and to give as prompt attention to requests as possible it means more travelling, and in almost every case only one load is involved.

The question of disposal of septic tank and cesspool contents was brought up to the Public Health Committee in July regarding possible hazards to public health associated with tipping on arable land. After consideration of a joint report from the Medical Officer, the Engineer and myself, it was agreed that hazards to health were non-existent or negligible and that the same method of disposal be continued.

Once again, I am able to report that although at certain times of the year difficulties do arise in locating suitable land for this purpose, by the efforts of the vehicle driver and co-operation of most farmers, this problem was overcome throughout the year satisfactorily, and no complaints of nuisance were received.

# PART V - RODENT CONTROL.

A summary of the work carried out by the rat-catcher, J. H. Bartram, on the control of rats and mice is shown in the following table:-

	Council premises (Tips, S/Wks. (inc. CHs) etc.)	Private dwellings (inc. CHs)	Agricultural premises	Other premises	Total
No. of notifications of infestations received.	2	178	24	28	232
No. of survey visits as a matter of routine,	13	1891	70	73	2047
No. of treatments carried out at infested premises:-					
(a) Rats ... (i) major	9	2	9	-	20
(ii) minor	64	534	12	22	632
(b) Mice ... (i) major	-	1	-	-	1
(ii) minor	-	31	-	1	32
No. of dead bodies picked up:					
Rats	684	846	358	70	1958
Mice	-	67	-	4	71

The figures generally are a trifle down on those for 1967, which indicates that 1968 was again about an average year, but it is interesting to note that of the 232 notifications received, more than half of these came in the last three months of the year. This bears out my remarks about the adverse weather conditions early in the year and its affect on rat infestations later on. It is also worthy of note that of the 2047 premises surveyed only 128 (6%) showed any evidence of infestation - this must be regarded as reasonably satisfactory, and shows that most people either keep their premises free themselves or call us in for assistance before infestations get out of hand.

All the Council's main sewerage systems were test baited about mid-year and I am pleased to again report that negative results were obtained.

In addition to his normal work on rat and mice control, Mr. Bartram, treated 14 premises for moles, one Council site for rabbits, 5 dwellings for bats, 3 for fleas and destroyed 5 wasps nests; he also assisted in work on refuse tip maintenance and acted as a reserve on the cesspool emptier,

# PART VI - PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT.

## (a) Factories Act 1961.

The following table shows the number of factories in use in the District at the end of the year, the number of inspections made and action taken as a result thereof :-

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities. (No power used).	3	6	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Power used).	87*	66	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Excluding outworkers' premises).	4**	4+	-	-
Totals	94	76	4	-

NOTES:- \* This figure includes 14 butcher's shops, where power operated sausage or mincing machines are in use, which are visited regularly under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

\*\* These are the slaughterhouses, also visited regularly for meat inspection throughout the year.

The figures of the number of premises and inspections are slightly down on the previous year, but the fact that in only four cases was it found necessary to write drawing attention to minor infringements, indicates that in general conditions were found to be satisfactory. All four cases concerned sub-standard toilet accommodation, and were rectified without further action being called for.

153 inspections were also made at building sites to ensure the provision of temporary sanitary accommodation for workmen, and no case arose, which could not be dealt with by informal verbal action.

The number of outworkers notified was 38 - as previously the majority of these are employed by the same firm in the manufacture of sheepskin gloves. All of those visited were found to be doing the work under satisfactory conditions.

(b) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

During the year 11 new notifications were received from the occupiers of premises within the scope of the Act, and with some deletions, the number of premises on the register (with the number of persons employed therein) at the end of the year was as follows:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number Registered.</u>	<u>Total No. of Employees.</u>
Offices.....	18	90
Retail shops.....	58	189
Wholesale shops/warehouses.....	2	11
Catering establishments.....	9	36
Fuel storage depots.....	2	8
	<u>89</u>	<u>334</u> (207 females & 127 males).

It should be noted that some premises come into more than one category, so that the number of actual premises is, in fact, slightly less than the total of 89.

150 inspections of these premises were made (52 more than in 1967) as a result of which 21 informal letters were sent requesting attention to infringements; all the matters concerned were attended to without the need for further action.

No accidents in premises under this Act were notified during the year.

(c) Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act 1956.

The provision of toilet facilities for agricultural workers at farms and for gangs of casual workers in the fields was given as much attention as possible, but in fact only 15 actual visits specially for this purpose were recorded. These applied mainly to toilets for casual workers on fruit picking etc. and involved the writing of five letters requiring facilities to be provided or improved - all were complied with promptly, without the need for further action. I accept any criticism that more work should be carried out under this Act, and instructions have been given to step up routine visits to farms etc. on this account during the current year. It is, however, worthy of note that not once since this Act came into force has any complaint ever been received from a farm worker that satisfactory facilities were not provided at or near his place of employment.

PART VII - OTHER MATTERS.

(a) Public Health Nuisances etc.

511 inspections (220 primary and 291 re-visits) were carried out in connection with complaints regarding public health nuisances, dangerous buildings and similar matters. Of those cases calling for action, a large number are dealt with verbally on the site, but in 22 instances written informal requests were made for the abatement of nuisances. In only two of these, was it necessary to report the facts to the Public Health Committee and formal action was authorised. In the first case, which would have meant the service of a notice under Section 39 of the Public Health Act 1936, the nuisance was abated without the notice being served; in the second case, which involved a roadside building in a dangerous condition, application was made to the local Magistrates for an order to repair or demolish, which was granted giving the owner two months in which to carry out the work. The building concerned was demolished and rebuilt within that period.

(b) Earth Closet Conversion Grants - Public Health Act 1936, Section 47.

Mainly due to the completion of the sewerage schemes in Wortwell and Tacolneston/Forncett the number of applications for these grants received and approved in 1968 rose to 29. Three of these were in respect of two W.Cs. at a Playing Field pavilion and one W.C. at a Village Hall. 27 grants were approved for payment to a total cost of £562.10.0d. - an average of £20.17.0d. per grant (10/- less than the average for 1967).

(c) Miscellaneous Licences etc.

Licences issued during the year were as follows, with the figures for 1967 in brackets:-

Petroleum Storage .....	102	(104)
Animal Boarding Establishments .....	4	(4)
Game Dealers .....	10	(10)

Visits to premises used for petrol storage revealed only two instances of minor infringements of the licence conditions, which were rectified following informal action. Each of the four animal boarding establishments were visited and found to be conducted and maintained satisfactorily; two additional licences were approved but had not been issued at the end of the year as the premises had not been completed up to the required standard.

Eight of the eleven persons previously registered as Scrap Metal Dealers were re-registered during the year - the three others having ceased to operate. There were no additions to the list of persons licensed to sterilise waste food for animal feeding under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order.


(d) Town Planning and Building Control.

1034 applications for the approval of plans were received - 63 more than in 1967 and a new high record. Of these 631 required consideration under the Town and Country Planning Acts. Looking back I find that the number of plans submitted last year is almost double what it was five years ago, which gives some idea of the increased activity in house building and improvement which has or is now taking place. At the end of 1968 - about 200 dwellings were in course of erection at any one time, which is expected to rise to over 300 by the end of 1969; it is, therefore, understandable that unless the Public Health Inspectors assist in the way mentioned in the introduction to the Report, the one Building Inspector could not possibly cope with the basic requirements of the Building Regulations to give each new house at least eight visits in the course of its construction.

IN CONCLUSION, I would like to express appreciation and thanks to all members of the Council, the Medical Officer, Clerk and all other members of the staff, for their continued co-operation, goodwill and assistance, in the running of my Department - without which my job would be that much more difficult.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



June, 1969.

Senior Public Health Inspector  
and Building Surveyor.

# DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S

### ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1968

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1968.

Undoubtedly the most dominant feature of the year was the dreadful weather. Besides it being in general a very wet year there was the distasteful flood in September and the heavy snow storm immediately after Christmas. Although the weather caused surprisingly little damage to your property, it caused a great deal of work and severely tested our emergency organisation.

The routine maintenance work carried out by the Department continued very much according to the pattern and although the nation's financial difficulties increased considerably there did not seem to be any appreciable reduction in our work connected with the Council's and private capital works.

The emergencies mentioned above were very trying and testing for the members of my staff both indoor and outdoor and I am therefore the more grateful for their help and co-operation as I am indeed to the members of other Departments and the Members of the Council.

### HOUSING

#### (A) CAPITAL WORKS

##### (1) House Improvements:

Again the programme continued and when the year ended only the few sites which do not enjoy sewerage were not in hand. It is, therefore, expected that henceforth the improvements programme will be carried out but slowly. At the time of writing only 71 dwellings remain to be dealt with, it being borne in mind, of course, that construction work on all of the others is not yet completed.

##### (2) New Dwellings:

The 1968 programme comprised only 15 two-bedroomed bungalows, 9 at Paddock Road, Harleston and 6 at Francis Road, Long Stratton. At the end of the year Ministry approval to the acceptance of tenders had been received and construction work was about to start.

The 1966 bungalow building programme of 40 bungalows was completed by March and when the year ended the 1967 bungalow programme was coming to an end. Towards the end of the year a programme of 50 bungalows to be built in 1969 was formulated and design work was going on when the year ended.

Construction work on the Grouped Homes for the Elderly at Harleston which comprises 20 one-bedroomed bungalows, a communal block and warden's flat and 2 associated two-bedroomed bungalows started early in November. Completion of the scheme is anticipated during the second half of 1969.

The carrying out of site works at Ashwellthorpe where plots are to be sold to members of the public was carried on during the year but completion was prevented because the wet weather made it quite impossible to surface the roads.

#### (B) MAINTENANCE

As the number of dwellings in your ownership continues to grow so increases the amount of maintenance work to be done. As in most other fields the weather proved to be a great hindrance and although the number of houses painted by your own painters was somewhat disappointing, the employment of Contractors greatly improved things and the very satisfactory number of 310 houses were painted during the year. The usual statistics can be seen at appendix 2.

### WATER SUPPLY

#### (A) CAPITAL WORKS

Your Consultants continued during the year to investigate the question of increasing the output from the waterworks and to this end two more bores were constructed which upon test pumping gave most encouraging results which led one to believe that by further extending the treatment plant the desired 2,000,000 g.p.d. could be obtained.

The Consultants continued with the preparation of a scheme for laying another rising main to feed the Harleston tower so as to ensure the adequacy of the supply in the Harleston area.

The construction of the reinforced concrete water tower at Long Stratton continued throughout the year and it was approaching completion when the year ended.

The two staff houses at Rushall were completed earlier in the year.

#### (B) MAINTENANCE

At the waterworks the staff settled down well to the running of the new works which had been brought into use in 1967 and by the end of the year the general running of the plant was very smooth and satisfactory.

On the distribution side two men were added to the distribution team and their work too is carried out in a very satisfactory way. During the year there was a very welcome reduction in the number of mains fractures and other emergencies to be dealt with. This, however, did not mean a reduction in the amount of work to be done. The extensions to mains for housing development continued to proliferate and a considerable amount of connections and some main laying work was carried out by the team.

The formation of the South Norfolk Water Board in 1969 will doubtless cause some upheaval when the transfer is made but I am confident that the undertaking being handed over is in thoroughly good heart. For my own part I shall be very sorry no longer to be responsible for water supply and further to lose the men who, without exception, have served this Council so well.

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

#### (A) CAPITAL WORKS

The year saw great activity in this field in that the Ashwellthorpe, Fornsett, Harleston and Wortwell schemes were completed and the Tasburgh and Roydon schemes were approaching completion when the year ended. Construction work was about to start on the enlargement of the Scole and the Long Stratton sewage disposal works.

A Ministry Enquiry into the Wacton scheme was awaited and, unfortunately, Ministry approval to the Brockdish scheme was not given during the year.

(B) MAINTENANCE

The usual maintenance routine was considerably hindered by the weather and, of course, the September floods which affected a large number of the works and left behind a considerable quantity of clearing up work to be done. Quite surprisingly the damage caused, particularly to electrical equipment, was quite small and a great deal of the work involved simply the use of brushes and shovels. The wet weather also greatly hindered the grass cutting programme and it seemed that the grass grew better for a longer period than ever before.

Once again the great expansion of our sewerage and sewage disposal facilities necessitated the growth of the maintenance team and it is expected that this will happen again in 1969.

OTHER MATTERS

(A) CAPITAL WORKS

The public lavatories at the Harleston car park were started during the year and were nearing completion when the year ended.

Some work was done in connection with the provision of a car park and lavatories in Long Stratton.

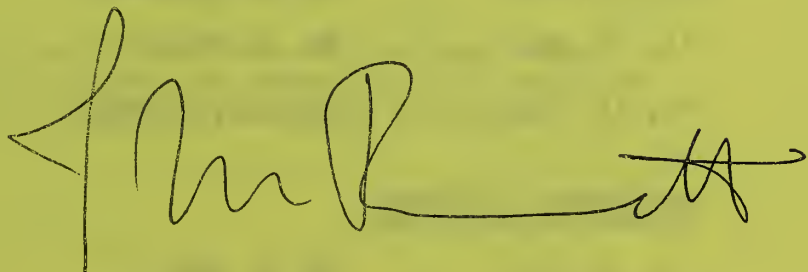
Preparations for the improvement of the Council's Depot at Long Stratton were being put in hand when the year ended.

(B) PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

Work in connection with the development of private estates continued and despite the financial troubles there does not seem to be any real slackening in the pace of this work.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to J.M. Berrett, is written across the middle of the page.

(J.M. BERRETT, C.ENG. F.I.MUN.E.,  
M.I.P.H.E., A.M.I.W.E.)

May. 1969

APPENDIX 1.

STAFF CHANGES IN 1968

ARRIVALS -- OFFICERS:

18. 3. 68.	MISS S.A. QUANTRILL	JUNIOR CLERK
3. 9. 68.	MR. C.C. CLARKE	CLERK OF WORKS
23. 9. 68.	MR. C.E.T. WOODHOUSE	JUNIOR ENGINEERING ASSISTANT.

DEPARTURES -- OFFICERS:

16. 2. 68.	MISS C.A. WARD	JUNIOR CLERK
1. 8. 68.	MR. J.R. FOWLER	JUNIOR ENGINEERING ASSISTANT.
31. 8. 68.	MR. R.B. BANYARD	CLERK OF WORKS

-----

ARRIVALS -- WORKMEN:

17. 6. 68.	MR. D.M. HAMMOND	WATER ATTENDANT
8. 7. 68.	MR. G.H. LEGOOD	TEMPORARY LABOURER
10. 7. 68.	MR. G.E. STEBBINGS	TEMPORARY SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT
19. 8. 68.	MR. G.W. BROWN	WATER ATTENDANT
24. 8. 68.	MR. G.L. ANDERSON	HANDYMAN
3. 9. 68.	MR. G.E. STEBBINGS	SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT
30. 9. 68.	MR. B. HOWARD	SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT
30. 9. 68.	MR. P. TRUDGILL	FITTER/ATTENDANT
14. 10. 68.	MR. H. WILSON	LABOURER
18. 11. 68.	MR. S.J. COOPER	WATER ATTENDANT

DEPARTURES -- WORKMEN:

3. 5. 68.	MR. A. GAZE	WATER ATTENDANT
5. 7. 68.	MR. P.L. THEOBALD	HANDYMAN
6. 9. 68.	MR. G.C. ARCHER	LABOURER
24. 8. 68.	MR. G.H. LEGOOD	TEMPORARY LABOURER
24. 8. 68.	MR. G.L. ANDERSON	TEMPORARY LABOURER
3. 9. 68.	MR. G.E. STEBBINGS	TEMPORARY SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT
19. 10. 68.	MR. A.J. WEBB	SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY HOUSING REPAIRS SECTION  
IN 1968

No. of dwellings under repair at 31st December, 1968.....	1,578	(1,556)
Complaints received.....	2,628	(2,620)
Jobbing repairs done.....	2,850	(2,543)
Electrical complaints received and dealt with.....	234	(282)
*Dwellings painted externally.....	139	(164)
Dwellings completely or partially redecorated internally on change of tenancy.....	8	(8)
Routine inspections of Council Dwellings.....	96	(67)
Vehicle Mileages..... JNG 378D ...	4,871	
..... 2023 PW ...	5,844	
..... SAH 718G ...	2,122	
..... 8342 PW ...	8,101	
..... 726 DNG ...	7,937	
..... DNG 422C ...	7,302	
..... CCL 833D ...	3,943	
..... MYF 280E ...	14,666.....	54,786 (51,745)

NOTE: The figures in parentheses are those for 1967.

\*In addition to the 139 dwellings mentioned above, 16 dwellings were painted by contractors working on improvement schemes and 155 dwellings were painted by direct contract, making a total of 310 dwellings painted during the year.

### APPENDIX 3

Average daily quantity of water supplied in thousands of gallons per day:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
741 (672)	717 (660)	724 (671)	741 (802)	739 (696)	761 (770)	737 (825)	749 (741)	732 (740)	727 (724)	714 (715)	715 (783)
Quantity supplied in 1968.....								266,498,000		(269,785,000)	
Decrease in 1968.....								3,287,000		(25,812,000)**	
										(Increase)	
Estimated Population in Area of Supply...								18,350		(18,250)	
Estimated Population supplied in 1968....								17,250		(17,170)	
Estimated Percentage of Population served								94		(94)	
Average Daily consumption per person.....								42 $\frac{1}{3}$ g.p.d.		(43)	
Length of main in service.....								210 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles		(209 $\frac{1}{4}$ )	
Consumers meters.....								1,274		(1,282)	
Dwellings served.....								6,680		(6,450)	
Direct.....								6,210		(5,930)	
By Standpipe.....								470		(520)	
Applications for Supplies granted.....								146		(132)	
New tappings made.....								321		(311)	
Mains fractures repaired.....								42		(61)	
Service pipes repaired.....								41		(44)	
Valves, hydrants, standpipes, etc., repaired								17		(27)	

NOTE: The figures in parentheses are those for 1967.

\*\*This figure was to some extent inflated because some water was used in the commissioning of the new waterworks, rising main, etc.

WATER MAINS LAID IN 1968

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>Size of Main (dia)</u>	<u>Length of Main (Yds)</u>	<u>Dwellings Supplied</u>
Wacton	3"	97	6
Long Stratton	3"	143	11
Pulham Market	4" 3"	128) 138)	10
Tacolneston	4"	69	10
Long Stratton - Rectory Close	3" 1"	60) 22)	11
Harleston -- Harleston Industries Ltd.	3"	220	19
Needham -- Burnt House Lane	3"	72	2
Ashwellthorpe -- Fundenhall	3"	69	Sewage P.Stn.
Earsham -- V.C. Cooke	3"	100	5
Tasburgh -- Church Road -- Reynolds & Halliday	4"	251	17
Tasburgh -- Harvey Close -- Burrell & Son	3"	103	9
Wortwell -- Willow Close -- Blackburns (Harleston) Ltd.	3"	143	12
Carleton Rode -- Ugate Street -- Mickleburgh & Rutland	3"	108	6
Forncett End -- Orchard Close -- E.A. Burrell	3"	170	16
Ashwellthorpe -- The Street -- Lansdale & Falconbridge	3"	109	12
Ashwellthorpe -- Old Hall Close -- Lansdale & Falconbridge	3"	181	11

FINANCIAL STATISTICS  
(as at 31st March, 1969)

(i)	Estimated Total Capital Expenditure	£920,800	(£875,700)
(ii)	Estimated Revenue Expenditure (inclusive of running costs, loan charges, etc.)	£80,500	(£77,000)
(iii)	Estimated Revenue	£33,400	(31,200)

APPENDIX 4

CAPITAL SCHEMES DEALT WITH DURING 1968

1. HOUSING

(A) Improvements

(i) By this Department:

Denton - Near King's Head and  
Norwich Road (10)

Work Completed

(ii) By Consultants:

- |     |   |                   |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| (a) | Ashwellthorpe, The Street (18)  | Work Completed    |
| (b) | Ashwellthorpe, The Turnpike, Fundenhall (14)  | Work in Progress  |
| (c) | Brockdish, Bungay Road, (16)  | Awaiting Sewerage |
| (d) | Gissing, Burston Road, (8)  | Tenders invited   |
| (e) | Pulham Market, Colegate End (8)   | Work Completed    |
| (f) | Roydon, Diss Road (9) & Factory Lane (6)  | Awaiting Sewerage |
| (g) | Shelfanger, Druids Lane (8)   | Tenders invited   |
| (h) | Tasburgh, Church Road (now Grove Lane) (6)<br>Turnpike (2), and Off Turnpike (now Church<br>Road) (8) | Awaiting Sewerage |
| (i) | Tharston - Norwich Road and The Street,<br>Hapton (12)  | Awaiting Sewerage |
| (j) | Tibenham, Long Row (10)   | Work Completed    |
| (k) | Winfarthing, Goose Green (8)  | Work in Progress  |
| (l) | Wortwell, High Road, (18)   | Work Completed    |

(B) New Dwellings (All by this Department)

(i) 1966 Programme for 40 two-bedroomed bungalows:

Wacton (6)

Work Completed

(ii) 1967 Programme for 45 two-bedroomed bungalows:

Burston (4)

Work Completed

Long Stratton (11)

Work in Progress

Pulham Market (10)

- ditto -

Pulham St. Mary (6)

Work Completed

Tacolneston (10)

- ditto -

(iii) 1968 Programme for 15 Bungalows:

Harleston, Paddock Road (9)

Tenders Received -  
Work about to start.

Long Stratton (6)

- ditto -

(iv) Grouped Homes for the Elderly at Harleston -  
20 one-bedroomed and 2 two-bedroomed  
bungalows

Work in Progress

(C) Site Works for Help to Would-be House  
Purchasers:

Ashwellthorpe

Work still in  
progress

Pulham Market

Plans and Estimates  
Submitted to  
Ministry

2. WATER SUPPLY

(A) By Consultants:

(i) Long Stratton - New Water Tower

Work in Progress

(ii) Rushall Waterworks - two new boreholes

Work Completed

(B) By this Department:

(1) Rushall Waterworks - two houses for staff

Work Completed

(2) Water Main Extensions:

(i) Wacton - to serve six new bungalows

Work Completed

(ii) Long Stratton - ditto 11 ditto

- ditto -

(iii) Pulham Market - ditto 10 ditto

- ditto -

(iv) Tacolneston - ditto 10 ditto

- ditto -

(v) Long Stratton - Greenpark Housing (2nd Phase)

Work about to start

(vi) Tibenham - Cargate Common

Work nearing  
completion

(vii) Dickleburgh - Rectory Road

Tenders about to  
be invited

(viii) Needham - Burnt House Lane

Work Completed

(ix) Ashwellthorpe, Fundenhall Sewage Pumping Stn.

Work Completed

(x) Long Stratton - Greenpark Housing - Rectory  
Close (1st Phase)

Work Completed

(xi) Harleston - Harleston Industries Ltd.,

Work Completed

(xii) Aslacton - Sneath Common Area

Work Completed

Water Mains Laid by Private Developers & Taken over by the Council:

- (i) Tasburgh, Church Road - Reynolds & Halliday
- (ii) Tasburgh, Harvey Close - E. Burrell & Son
- (iii) Wortwell, Willow Close - Blackburns (Harleston) Ltd.,
- (iv) Carleton Rode, Upgate Street - Mickleburgh & Rutland
- (v) Forncett End, Orchard Close - E.A. Burrell & Son
- (vi) Ashwellthorpe, The Street - Lansdale & Falconbridge
- (vii) Ashwellthorpe, Old Hall Close - Lansdale & Falconbridge

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(A) By Consultants:

- |        |   |                           |
|--------|---|---------------------------|
| (i)    | Ashwellthorpe - Village Sewerage Scheme             | Completed                 |
| (ii)   | Brockdish - - ditto -                               | Held up by Ministry       |
| (iii)  | Forncett & Tacolneston - ditto -                    | Work Completed            |
| (iv)   | Harleston - reconstruction of sewage disposal works | Work Completed            |
| (v)    | Scole Sewage Disposal Works - Enlargement           | Tender accepted           |
| (vi)   | Tasburgh & Hapton - Village Sewerage Scheme         | Work in Progress          |
| (vii)  | Wacton & Aslacton - - ditto -                       | Awaiting Ministry Inquiry |
| (viii) | Wortwell - - ditto -                                | Work Completed            |
| (ix)   | Roydon - - ditto -                                  | Work in Progress          |

(B) By this Department:

- |     |   |                 |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| (i) | Long Stratton - Enlargement of existing Sewage Disposal Works | Contract Placed |
|-----|---|-----------------|

#### 4. OTHER MATTERS

##### (A) Private Development:

Assistance has been given with various private development sites, notably the ones mentioned in Item 2 (B) and (C) and the following:-  
(There are 28 development sites active at the moment)

- (i) Tasburgh, Church Road - Reynolds & Halliday
- (ii) Roydon, Manor Road - Mills & Leighton
- (iii) Great Moulton - Mr. Heather
- (iv) Earsham, The Elms - Harris & Andrews
- (v) Tacolneston - Mrs. Jackson
- (vi) Dickleburgh, Rectory Road - Joseph Moss & Sons
- (vii) Earsham - V.C. Cooke
- (viii) Tacolneston - Ford & Carter
- (ix) Long Stratton - Norfolk Garden Estates
- (x) Roydon - Pope Properties
- (xi) Tharston - Reynolds & Laughton

##### (B) By this Department:

- |       |   |                                 |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|
| (i)   | Harleston - Public Conveniences on Car Park | Work in Progress                |
| (ii)  | Council Depot - Improvements                | Scheme in course of preparation |
| (iii) | Long Stratton - Car Park                    | Draft Scheme prepared.          |





